GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1641
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014
PAKYONG AIRPORT
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up development of Pakyong Airport in Sikkim and if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(b) whether there is any delay in the completion of this project and if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the said project is likely to be completed; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to promote ATR aircraft for smaller airports in the country?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri G. M. Siddeshwara)

(a): Yes, Madam. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up the project for construction of new Greenfield Airport at Pakyong, Sikkim at a cost of Rs. 309.46 crores for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft. 83% of the work has been completed;

(b): Yes, Madam. The project has been delayed over 50 months due to several hindrances like connectivity of site, adverse weather conditions, frequent bandhs and unrest by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, earthquake in 2011 and continuous agitation by the local inhabitants of the surrounding areas of the airport project demanding compensation for damage to their houses. The date of completion of the Pakyong Airport project can be projected / re-assessed only after all the issues pertaining to compensation and security at the site are resolved by the State Govt. of Sikkim.

(c): The operation in domestic sector have been deregulated and the Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need of the different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. Further, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued minimum requirements to be complied with for commencing operations to new stations.